

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /093 W
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R 131345Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1560

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0439

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAGR, GR

SUBJECT: EDIBLE OIL SHORTAGE IN NORTHERN GREECE, AND RISING PRICES

1. THESSALONIKI PRESS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD RELEASE FROM ITS STOCKS 237 TONS OF OLIVE OIL FOR DISTRIBUTION TO WHOLESALERS IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN GREECE OF WHICH 94 TONS FOR THESSALONIKI. GOG AUTHORITIES TO SUPERVISE DISTRIBUTION TO PREVENT STOCKPILING.

COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN SOME SHORTAGE OF EDIBLE OILS, AND EVIDENCES OF STOCKPILING OF THIS AND OTHER COMMODITIES, SUCH AS SUGAR AND PASTE PRODUCTS, FOR AT LEAST PAST TWO MONTHS, BUT ACUTE SHORTAGE HAS BECOME EVIDENT ONLY IN LAST TWO WEEKS. ONLY SMALL AMOUNT OF COTTON SEED OIL AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT NORMAL PRICES, WHICH DOES NOT MEET LOCAL TASTE PREFERENCES.

2. IN RELATED VEIN, "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" (PRO-GOVERNMENT) SENIOR EDITOR ELEIAS KYROU WROTE IN HIS "OUR OPINION" EDITORIAL THIS MORNING THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH VP PATTAKOS STATEMENT THAT RISING PRICES DUE TO FAULTY SUPERVISION OF MARKET POLICE. PRICES GOING UP EVERYWHERE, HE SAYS, AND AUTOMOBILE WORTH 220 THOUSAND DRACHMAS LAST WEEK

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COSTS 250 THOUSAND DRACHMAS TODAY, "AND NO ONE KNOWS WHAT

IT WILL COST TOMORROW". POLICE CAN' T COPE WITH SITUATION,
HE CONCLUDES, "YOU CAN' T CONFRONT ECONOMIC PHENOMENA
WITH POLICE MEASURES".
BRENNAN

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